



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Office of Attorney General
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Josh Shapiro
Attorney General

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Harrisburg, PA 17120
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February 19, 2021

Dear Representatives,

I have received your request for information on my office's ongoing efforts to protect long-term care residents during the pandemic. Enforcing the laws designed to protect seniors and vulnerable Pennsylvanians in the care of others is one of our office's core responsibilities and one we take especially seriously during this challenging time.

Under Pennsylvania law my office's jurisdiction on these matters is clear, and our Care-Dependent Neglect Team has taken a broad view of that authority to aggressively pursue matters of criminal neglect.

Within weeks of the pandemic hitting Pennsylvania, my office opened criminal investigations into several Pennsylvania nursing homes. These investigations were publicly announced in May and are ongoing. We ask anyone with information of neglect in nursing home communities to report it by emailing neglect-COVID@attorneygeneral.gov. We have received hundreds of complaints and our Neglect team is actively investigating every report that falls under our jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, that same month you voted against \$500 million that would have assisted our nursing homes with residents or staff with diagnosed or suspected cases of COVID-19.

While the General Assembly has given my office criminal jurisdiction, your letter requested information about my view on the impact of federal CDC guidance regarding COVID-positive long-term care residents and the accuracy of state-provided health data. In Pennsylvania, the Office of the State Inspector General is the proper place for this investigative request.

I appreciate your apparent concern for the wellbeing of Pennsylvania's seniors, long-term care residents and those who provide care for them in facilities across the Commonwealth. The pandemic has made clear that long-term care facilities and nursing homes were not adequately prepared for this crisis and proper federal funding is needed.

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I urge you to reconsider your position against funding to protect residents of long-term care facilities from COVID. The relief bill soon to be considered in the U.S. House is one such opportunity for you to save lives and help millions of working and out-of-work Americans manage the financial stresses the pandemic has wrought on all of us. If my team can be of any assistance, please contact my Office of Government Affairs at 717-783-3085.

All the best,



JOSH SHAPIRO

CC: Representative Daniel Meuser
Representative Glenn Thompson
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Scott Perry

Representative Lloyd Smucker
Representative Guy Reschenthaler
Representative Fred Keller
Representative John Joyce